

Yet even as it has transformed itself into a media giant, for 25 years now, ESPN has called only one place home—the city of Bristol, in my home State of Connecticut.

Some might question why a network of ESPN's stature might prefer a quiet city of only 60,000 people to the glitz and glamour of New York City or Hollywood. But, those of us who live in Connecticut aren't the least bit surprised that ESPN's executives, workers, and broadcasters have chosen not only to work in central Connecticut, but to buy homes and raise their families there as well.

We are also especially proud of our "homegrown talent," those ESPN broadcasters who first made a name for themselves at local stations in Connecticut. Most notably, of course, there is my friend Chris Berman, a native of Greenwich. Back when I was a member of the House of Representatives, Chris was a weekend anchor with WVIT-TV, Channel 30, in Hartford. His head of hair was much fuller then, and mine was much darker. In the two-and-a-half decades since, Chris has become one of ESPN's most well-known and beloved on-air personalities.

Over the course of its 25 years, ESPN has set records, reached numerous milestones, become a household name, and revolutionized sports coverage as we know it.

Whenever a major event takes place in the world of sports, fans know that ESPN will bring them the latest news, the first interviews, and the deepest coverage. Thanks to ESPN, fans across the Nation watched live when Cal Ripken passed Lou Gehrig, when Mark McGwire tied Roger Maris, and when the World Cup was played in the United States for the very first time. ESPN has also made countless innovations in the world of sports broadcasting, introducing techniques like the "helmetcam," the "K Zone," the "player mike," and ultra-slow-motion replay.

Of course, one can't discuss ESPN without mentioning their most well-known news program, SportsCenter. Watched by as many as 88 million people each month, SportsCenter is a phenomenon within a phenomenon, a program that has carved out its own niche in American culture.

By combining all-star coverage with a knack for wit, SportsCenter has become the model that all other sports programs emulate. Its announcers have perfected a style that is, as one of them might put it, "as cool as the other side of the pillow." Professional athletes admit that they stay up late after game nights to watch their own highlights on the 1 a.m. SportsCenter. Even in games of sandlot baseball or pickup basketball, players have adopted the lingo of ESPN announcers, calling exceptional plays "SportsCenter highlights" or "web gems."

There is a great deal of uncertainty in our Nation today. We have an election in less than two months. Our troops are on the ground in Iraq, Af-

ghanistan, and elsewhere. We are fighting a global campaign against terrorism.

But even during these difficult times, sports have the power to capture our attention. It is an inescapable fact that sports are woven into the fabric of American life. The spirit of competition; the importance of fair play; courage in the face of adversity—these are all American values that we can and do celebrate with our enthusiasm for sports.

Sports have the power to inspire us all to strive for greater and loftier heights. Who can forget Willis Reed limping onto the floor at Madison Square Garden in 1970, or the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team's "Miracle on Ice," or the American women's team winning the 1999 World Cup?

True, sports can inspire fierce rivalries. We in Connecticut, who live on the front lines of the Yankee-Red Sox divide, know that better than anyone. But more significantly, sports can unite us. At no time was that clearer than in the aftermath of the attacks of September 11, when the sight of baseball and football players taking the field helped restore a sense of normalcy, and in a small way, helped our Nation begin to heal.

For the past 25 years, ESPN has helped bring the exciting, emotional, and magical world of sports into the living rooms of millions and millions of Americans. And in doing so, they have become a part of American history.

I wish everyone at ESPN a very happy 25th anniversary, and I wish them nothing but success in the years to come.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MADD

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and thank the members, volunteers, and sponsors of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, or MADD. MADD and its mission "to stop drunk driving, support victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking" has become the largest crime victims' assistance organization in the world, with more than 3 million members and supporters.

This month marks the 20th anniversary of South Dakota's Pennington County chapter of MADD. MADD Pennington County shares this anniversary with the enactment of the National Uniform 21 Minimum Drinking Age Act, one of the organization's greatest victories. Since the law was passed in 1984, over 20,000 young lives have been saved from highway crashes.

Much of that success is thanks to MADD's efforts to change public attitudes and raise social awareness of the dangers of impaired driving.

We still have much to do. Since 2000, about half of all the traffic related deaths in South Dakota were alcohol related. In the face of this challenge, the MADD chapter of Pennington County has been active in outreach, coordinating with the police department to educate the owners and staffs of restaurants and bars, as well as high school and college students.

Two women in particular have made a difference, and they deserve special recognition. Lila Doud, who is the current Chapter President, and Janice Morehouse, the Secretary/Treasurer, have been working with the MADD Pennington County chapter since its inception 20 years ago. All the volunteers and sponsors of MADD Pennington County have much to be proud of and I am grateful for their commitment to public safety, victim services, and education. All of South Dakota owes them a great debt and we thank them for their service.

THE RIGHT COURSE FOR THE ECONOMY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I always find it of interest when a prominent member of corporate America steps forward to offer a refreshing perspective on the economic challenges our country faces today.

To that end, I would like to call the Senate's attention to two pieces of commentary written by Leo Hindery, Jr. and published over the summer recess.

Mr. Hindery, as many of my colleagues are aware, has served as the CEO of TCI and AT&T Broadband, and more recently as the chairman of the YES Network. He has a keen understanding that corporations have obligations both to their shareholders, but also to the communities in which they operate, and the American economy they fuel.

Mr. Hindery's first piece is on the subject of outsourcing, and he argues that offshoring of jobs is not inevitable, nor is it often the best long-term strategy for American companies.

His second talks about the need to see through the sky-is-falling claims of some interest groups and weigh both policy and electoral decisions on a simple standard—what is the best thing to do, not just for a few who are well-off and well-connected, but for the economy as a whole?

Again, I think these pieces of insight and analysis would be of interest to those of us who are entrusted to make decisions about the policies America adopts, and I ask unanimous consent that they be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: